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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 68, ISSUE NO. 5 | MARCH 19, 2008 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

Career Fair Offers Jobs and a Plan

BY BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Beautiful weather inspired students to get outside March 12 and take part in the festivities in Monarch Square for Valley College's first Career/ Transfer Fair.

Unlike fairs past, this one was full of people scrambling between classes to get as much information as possible about future jobs and transfer information.

"This is great information," said psychology major Paola Ortiz. "I am going to apply for three jobs here."

The rows of the square were lined with dozens of businesses and agencies trying to get their names out to their target market, college aged students. The Los Angeles law enforcement agencies were busy doing their best to clear up misconceptions about joining the force.

"Having a college degree in not required to get a job with the California Highway Patrol," said C.H.P. recruitment officer Tony Garrett. "We are hiring on a continuous basis and all you need is a high school diploma or G.E.D. and

see *Job Fair* page 5

THE NEED FOR WORK IS UNIVERSAL

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

JOBS ARE AVAILABLE - The Valley College Career Day gave representatives such as Roberta Jefferson, left, from Universal Studios Hollywood, the chance to recruit potential workers for the summer. Former Valley College student Gabriel Chavez gets information about applying for a job.

Sheriffs Complete Profiling Inquiry

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR AT LARGE

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department concluded its investigation into a Valley student's complaint about racial profiling, saying that its deputy was guilty of no wrong doing but his conduct "could have been better."

The investigation centered on a January complaint filed by Uriel Eddie, a dental hygiene major, that states he was wrongly pulled out of his winter session class as the sheriffs looked for two males disrupting the Chemistry Building. Eddie's complaint said Deputy Tom Lynch told him "you're black and the guy we are looking for is black, so what do you expect?"

The department's letter, mailed to Eddie over the weekend, was labeled "the final acknowledgement of [Eddie's] complaint," after more than a month-long investigation by Sgt. Michael Poirier, who said the investigation would be conclusive and transparent. Community College Bureau Commander Ralph Webb reviewed the findings and signed the letter.

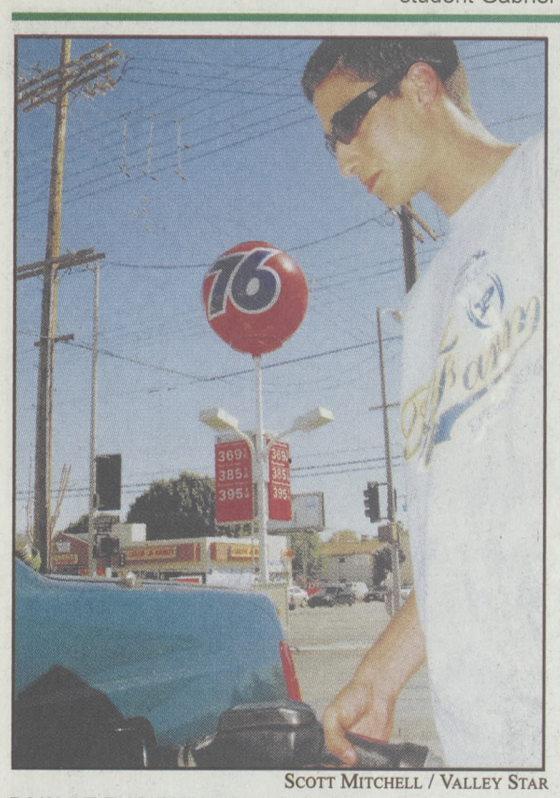
"I feel totally disappointed in their final decision," Eddie said. "I'm not surprised, but I'm totally disappointed. My claim was [of] racial profiling and there is no mention of racial profiling in there. I feel like they pushed it under the rug hoping I won't say anything, but that's not my intention. My intention is to take it to the next step."

"I'm not surprised, but I'm totally disappointed"

- Uriel Eddie

Eddie said he already called the Sheriff's ombudsman to voice his dissatisfaction with the results. He also handed a copy of the letter to President Tyree Wieder's office and hopes the administration takes fur-

see *Profiling* page 5



SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

PAIN AT THE PUMP- Valley College student, Andrew Corvic, 18, squeezes every drop out of the gas pump at the 76 station on Oxnard and Woodman.

Rising Gas Prices Place Students Under the Pump

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

With gas prices approaching almost $4 a gallon, some Valley College students are resorting to saving strategies to ease the burden.

"The gas prices are pretty pathetic, but if you think about it, I read a poll that said that [oil companies] made the most profit right now," said Samuel Lara, a sociology major. "I drive, but I only drive twice a week. I used to drive everyday, but now I've diminished it."

Prices for crude oil reached an all-time high at more than $110 a barrel March 13, prompting gas and diesel to follow in its footsteps and raise gas prices. According to the Department of Energy, the national average price of gasoline is at $3.225 a gallon, while the California average is at $3.537, 0.469 cents more than a year ago.

Lara opts to ride the bus or Metrolink to save money.

"Before I used to pay $55 to $60 dollars a week … but now I spend $15 dollars on gas." said Lara

Brian Gill, a Valley student, intended to buy a car this year, but his objective has been changed.

"Basically, all the plans I had to buy my own car… now they have been destroyed because of the gas prices," he said

As an alternative, he resorts to other forms of transportation.

"Now, I use a either a bike or a bus, but now I'm leaving the bus because the price is going up too," he said. "So, what I'm going to do now is fix my bike this weekend, and I'm going to start riding over here."

see *Gas* page 5

Paris, Rome Offer More Than a Vacation Abroad

BY SHANNON MCHUGH
STAFF WRITER

Students who dream of traveling this summer and getting college credit for it are in luck – Valley College and ACCENT are working together to offer Valley students the chance to study abroad in Paris or Rome as a class.

Each program offers students, 18 years or older, the chance to earn up to five transferable units to University of California and California State University schools in courses offered in each country.

ACCENT's study abroad program to Paris includes a month-long trip focusing on beginning; intermediate; and advanced French language classes, as well as a directed-study course on French civilization. The trip to Rome includes a two-week directed-study course about the history of Ancient Rome.

"There is so much to learning about the history of a place if you actually go there," Rome program leader Michelle Visco said last semester. "Learning about ancient Rome amongst the ruins of ancient Rome. You can't duplicate that in the classroom. I've been to Italy a dozen times and for me when I get to go back with a group of students who have never been, it's like I'm experiencing it for the first time, that's what make it fun for me."

Many students may not be able to see taking one of these trips as a reality until they see the country first hand, but another was to feel as close to that reality as possible comes from the picture galleries from both websites explaining the

see *Study* page 5

New Governor Begins Historic Term in New York

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR AT LARGE

Former Lt. Gov. David Paterson officially took over as governor of New York Monday after an alleged sex scandal forced ex-governor Eliot Spitzer to resign last week, amid claims that he spent more than $80,000 on prostitutes.

Paterson's ascension as both the first black and legally blind governor in New York came as Spitzer's demise became reality. The story made national headlines and brought Spitzer's rising political career to a rapid end only 14 months after he became governor. Spitzer – known as the "Sheriff of Wall Street" because of his aggressive style – has assembled a team of powerful attorneys as he prepares to face possible criminal charges.

"I am deeply sorry that I did not live up to what was expected of me," Spitzer said as he announced his resignation. "To every New Yorker, and to all those who believed in what I tried to stand for, I sincerely apologize."

The entire ordeal sparked a media frenzy with news reports surfacing of his repeated use of high-priced call girls, the discovery of the prostitute at the center of the scandal's MySpace page and investigations into whether or not he used campaign funds for his illegal activities.

Federal authorities are investigating the role campaign money may have played in Spitzer's payment of airfare, transportation and hotel rooms during his alledged trysts. Using campaign money for personal reasons is illegal. Prosecutors are seeking information about Spitzer's expenses during his February 13 meeting with a prostitute at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. as well as two other trips.

"I am deeply sorry that I did not live up to what was expected of me."

- Eliot Spitzer

The story broke when federal law enforcement officials announced they had a wiretap revealing Spitzer had reportedly spent more than $4000 an hour to sleep with a prostitute from the Emperors Club V.I.P., identified as "Kristen" in court documents.

Officials initially began to monitor Spitzer after his bank reported several suspicious cash transactions, leading them to discover his ties to the high-end prostitution ring.

see *Spitzer* page 5

KRISTEN BECKER, EDITOR IN CHIEF / VALLEY STAR

PICTURE YOURSELF HERE - France's Arc de Triomphe is one of the many historic places students can visit during a study trip planned for the summer by the Valley College foriegn language department.

OPINION PG. 2
IDENTITY CRISIS
ACTING ADULT - TAKING THE INNOCENCE AWAY FROM TEENAGE GIRLS

VALLEY LIFE PG. 3
LEAVING THE VALLEY
HISTORY AND ART FOUND ON THE SHORES OF SAN PEDRO

SPORTS PG. 4
VALLEY PEOPLE
MONARCH SASHA SNYDER PROVES TO BE PTICHER-PERFECT

GALLERY PG. 6
WAR NO MORE
PROTESTERS GATHER TO PUT AN END TO U.S OCCUPATION IN IRAQ

OPINION

Buying Identity

BY SHANNON MCHUGH
STAFF WRITER

From what I remember, most teenage girls when I was growing up began their transformation into high school with similar feelings; excited about having their first real boyfriend, making new friends, and driving a car for the first time. It seems like all of the sudden, thanks to various media outlets glorifying the overabundance of underage drinking, illegal drug taking, and superfluous spending on designer products, a young girl's high school experience has taken a turn for the worse.

It seems as if it all started with the initiation of the young adult literature genre into book collections and bookstores everywhere within the last 10 years. These book series' such as the now vaguely popular novel, turned television show "Gossip Girl" and many other similar novels portray an array of characters who are members of high society thanks to their parents' wealth. Each one of these series show the daily "struggle" that these people must endure by being so wealthy and pretentious, all the while wearing uncomfortable, yet posh $500 stiletto heels.

These novels are not all about sex, drugs and rock and roll; they also read like commercials or ads in Vogue for the world's finest, most expensive products and act as if they are commonplace, assuming that if you do not have a pair of Chanel sunglasses or Dior perfume, you are not good enough to be in their world or even read their books.

ILLUSTRATION BY PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

Newsweek Magazine ran a story in last week's edition about Naomi Johnson, a professor at Longwood University, who completed a study on this and found that specific brand names "appeared an average of more than once per page: 1,553 references in all. Among them were 65 allusions to brand name alcohols, cigarettes or prescription drugs."

This has become an angle of blatant marketing that has teenage girls flocking to Rodeo Drive to overpay for clothing that teenage girls should not be wearing in the first place. It is leaving us with tons of little scantily clad Britney Spears look-alikes running around our towns, and I am not alone in thinking that the last thing we need in this world is another Britney Spears.

Authors attack affordable stores like Target as trashy and unacceptable, using them as an example of a decline in status between students in their classrooms or their friends. In the "Gossip Girl" world, for example, I would probably be seen as the biggest loser on campus for wearing my mall-purchased jeans and target T-shirt.

The barely-there clothing is the least of the problems with these messages, however; the promotion of high school students going into a bar in New York City and ordering a dirty martini no questions asked is certainly giving the wrong impression to the young adults reading these books. Though readers should be able to know the difference between fact and fiction, we know that people, more often than not, get wrapped up in the fiction so much that they believe it as truth.

Whatever happened to the Nancy Drew and Judy Blume novels that promoted finding yourself through mystery and friendships rather than drugs and alcohol? I know that we have become a society that is free to talk about these once taboo topics like sex and drug use, but the way in which we speak about such things can adversely affect our entire society as we know it. Teenage girls should be able to have their last moments of youth and innocence without being thrown into the world for which they are not yet prepared.

Rising Hemlines

■ The summer months loom large, and hot. Temperatures rise as taste plummets, and burns.

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR

It's getting to that time of year again: daylight savings has begun, the days are getting longer and summer has begun teasing us with intermittent balmy days. The weather may be finicky through the June Gloom until July, but it is a sure thing that hemlines on clothing will continue to rise to combat the rising heat. Another sure thing will be the double standard between the choice of warm weather attire of men and women.

There is nothing worse than sitting in a sticky classroom during the warmer months, so most of us dress for comfort, instead of style. The usual uniform for most ladies around campus at this time is a pair of flip-flops, shorts or a skirt and a wife beater – cool and casual. Yet some may beg to differ, as I can still remember last summer how some of my friends felt uncomfortable on campus because of the comments made about their attire.

This is where the double standard begins. While some deem it inappropriate for women to dress for the weather, it seems perfectly fine for males to walk around in see-through mesh shirts, or without their shirts at all. If a woman were to do the same, even if it was just a mesh shirt with a bra underneath, there would be cries of indecent exposure.

Of course, there is a line of decency that should not be crossed when it comes to clothing – wearing a incy-wincy shirt and shorts and letting it all hang out is beyond the border of taste. But from my experience, there aren't many girls at Valley who choose to go that far. The problem isn't with our choice of threads, but with the bad attitude from the men on this campus.

It is the male students at Valley who make the comments that make us feel discomfort every time we walk past a passing pack, making us feel like pieces of meat in a cute outfit. Some of the comments I've heard while walking around campus I can't even put into print, they are so disgusting. Perhaps these students need to put themselves in our flip-flops and experience feeling ashamed of wearing everyday clothing.

This summer, when you are going to class and you see a girl wander by just trying to keep cool, here's a thought. Before opening your mouth to comment, have a look at your own attire and think about how fair your words really are. June Gloom is about the weather, not how the ladies want to feel.

E-Opinion

The Pope be Pimpin
by Shannon McHugh

Spitzer, How Silly
by Kristen Becker

Cyberfrontier
by Josh Spence

Target is on Target
by Elizeda Beltran

Intolerable Intolerance

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR AT LARGE

America claims to be the "land of the free," where life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are basic human rights. Where people of all cultures, ideas and beliefs can peacefully live together and chase their dreams.

Unfortunately, the opposite is true for many innocent men, women and children who are targets of deplorable acts of intolerance simply because of their sexual orientation.

Earlier this year a teenage boy named Lawrence King was murdered at his Oxnard school by a classmate because he was gay. A February LA Times article noted the pain endured by King, who lived in a center for abused and neglected children and was constantly bullied.

"Larry, 15 years old and openly gay, found no refuge from his tormentors," the article said. "Not in the classroom, the quad, the cafeteria. Not from the day he enrolled at the school … until the moment he was shot to death in a computer lab, just after his usual morning van ride from the shelter a town away."

The fact that this type of horrific crime occurs anywhere in the world is unacceptable. But for it, and the blatant abuses and discrimination that accompany it to take place in the 21st century – in what is supposed to be the greatest nation on Earth – is a disgrace.

"...when the message out there is so horrible that to be gay you can be killed for it, we need to change the message."
- Ellen Degeneres

The sheer ignorance of Larry's death was brought to national TV attention by openly gay talk show host Ellen Degeneres.

"Days before he was murdered, Larry asked his killer to be his Valentine," Degeneres said. "Somewhere along the line, the killer, Brandon, got the message that it's so threatening and so awful and so horrific that Larry would want to be his Valentine that killing Larry seemed to be the right thing to do. And when the message out there is so horrible that to be gay you can be killed for it, we need to change the message."

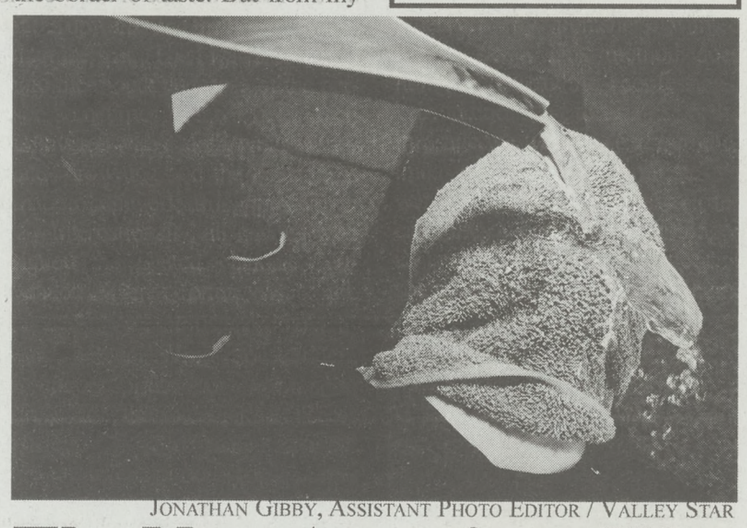
She is absolutely right. Every single American who believes in freedom and justice should be outraged by these atrocious acts of hate and stand up against them. Our lawmakers, politicians, police and school officials need to protect everyone's rights and set forth a message of tolerance and equality.

Sadly, some politicians facilitate the hateful thinking, as evidenced by the recent comments of state legislator Sally Kern (R-Okla.), who said "I honestly think [homosexuality is] the biggest threat our nation has, even more so than terrorism and Islam."

Her bigotry and outrageous remarks didn't stop there. "One of my colleagues said we don't have a gay problem here in our community. You know what, to me that is so dumb," Kern said. "If you got cancer or something in your little toe, do you say you're just going to forget about it because the rest of you is fine? It spreads. And this stuff is deadly and it spreads and it will destroy our young people and it will destroy this nation."

Being gay is not a disease and it doesn't threaten America. Allowing the type of message sent by Kern to remain is the true threat. There is no excuse or place for that type of thinking.

Degeneres summed it up best: "Larry was not a second-class citizen. I am not a second-class citizen. It is OK if you're gay. I don't care what people say. I don't care what people think. And I know there are entire groups of people who face discrimination every single day and we're a long way from treating each other equally. All of it is unacceptable. All of it."


JONATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

The New American Way

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

While flipping through my anthropology textbook, I suddenly realized how lucky I am to live in a country that not only believes in human rights and justice for all, but upholds them too. We don't sacrifice people to the gods, we don't impale or guillotine people's heads, and we certainly don't burn people at the stake because it's inhumane and we are a progressive society. Well, apparently President Bush forgot this part of America when he declared that torture has a place in this country.

The House of Representatives failed to override President's Bush's veto of a law that would ban waterboarding and other harsh interrogation methods on prisoners in the fight against terrorism. Bush erroneously thinks it's essential to use torture tactics on terrorist suspects as a means of extracting confessions, which not only goes against America's moral code, but taints the already fragile image of this country.

Waterboarding involves strapping a person to a board where the detainee faces upwards and the head is higher than the feet. Then water is poured into the mouth and nose of the person, sometimes the face of the person is covered with a cloth, which simulates drowning and the detainee is made to believe death is approaching.

Internationally, all nations who signed the United Nations Convention Against Torture, which the United States is part of, agreed that they are all subject to the non-torture principle. In fact, even Sen. John McCain, presidential hopeful and former prisoner of war in Vietnam considers waterboarding "illegal" despite his vote against the ban.

Bush's thirst for torture is incompatible with laws against it in U.S. history. In 1947, the U.S. prosecuted Yukio Asano, a Japanese military officer, and sentenced him to 15 years in prison after using waterboarding on a U.S. civilian during World War II.

The message to other nations seems to be, when America employs torture it is fine, but don't follow our example because for you it is a crime. Human rights are human rights everywhere.

In his weekly radio address, the president said he opposed the bill because to do so "would take away one of the most valuable tools in the war on terror -- the CIA program to detain and question key terrorist leaders and operatives."

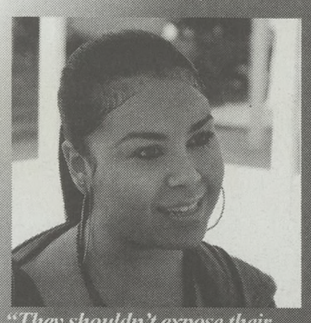
But how effective can torture be? Would not human instinct for survival kick in? I'm sure that if I were in that position, I would say whatever my punishers wanted me to say. This method does not assure truthful confessions.

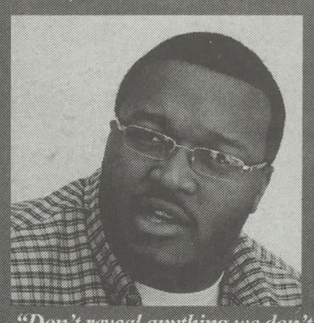
In addition, "we torture" is not the message we want to send our enemies when we are in the middle of a war. Under this law, America loses credibility when it points its finger at enemies who hold American soldiers hostage and torture them.

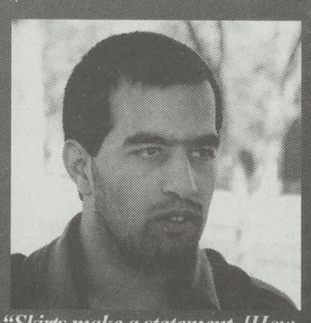
CAMPUS VIEW

photos by Jonathan Gibby, Assistant Photo Editor / Valley Star

How do you feel early teenagers should dress?


"They shouldn't expose their bodies. They're still developing. A body is a temple, regardless of what age you are. Youmg girls sould dress decent."
-Samar Elwary, business


"Don't reveal anything we don't wanna see. They're still growing. Older males like to see young girls, they might get distracted. It's just not appropriate"
-Cheick Soumare, business management


"Skirts make a statement. [How young ladies] dress should be their choice; when they're old enough to make the right choices and deal with the consequences."
-Sam Singh accounting

"When I was 14 and living in Mexico, we were all pretty covered up. I didn't even wear make-up. Show self respect. You've got to teach yourself self worth"
LaCoacha Ortiz, theatre arts

WHAT'S NEW @ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

"Lost Boys 2" Puts the Final Nail in the Coffin of the 80s.
By Brad Taylor

The Pope Be Pimpin'
By Shannon McHugh

Cyberfrontier
By Josh Spence

Target is on Target
By Elizeda Beltran

Spitzer, How Silly
By Kristen Becker

TOP 5 STORIES @ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

Democratic Race Too Close to Call
By Kristen Becker

Superman Still Going Strong at 70
By Brad Taylor

Budget Cuts Slash Services
By Elizeda Beltran

Problematic Progressive Papal Policy
By James Bennett

Under the Sea at the Aquarium of the Pacific
By Elizeda Beltran

LAVC EVENTS

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

ASU Club Day @ 9 am-2 pm (Monarch Square) – Contact: Associated Student Union (818) 947-5516

LAVC Library "Online Catalog Workshop" @ 10:30-11:30 am (LAIR Computer Lab) – Contact: LAVC Library (818) 947-2425

Free Wednesday Concert – Nucleus Ensemble @ 1 pm (Music 106); Admission: Free – Contact: Music Dept (818) 947-2347

"Art in Motion: A Celebration of Black Heritage and Culture" Event @ 6:30-8:30 pm; Admission: Donation - Contact: Tara Lake (818) 947-2486

Thursday, March 20, 2008

LAVC Library "Online Catalog Workshop" @ 8:30-9:30 am (LAIR Computer Lab) – Contact: LAVC Library (818) 947-2425

Academic Senate Mtg. @ 1-3 pm (Faculty Lounge) – Contact: Don Gauthier (818) 947-5514

Think Transfer!

Fall 2008 UC and CSU priority transer application deadline is November 30. Apply on line at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply or www.csumentor.edu

Guarantee your admission to a UC by participating in a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee Program. For program information, qualifications and applications visit the Career/Transfer Center, Adm. 126, or call (818) 947-2646. All events held in the Career/Transfer Center

Wednesday, March 19

Undecided Major/Career Workshop 1pm-2pm

Thursday, March 20

UC Santa Cruz Rep 10am-12 noon
CSU Los Angeles Rep 10am-1pm
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30pm-6:30pm

Tuesday, April 1

CSU Northridge Rep 10am-1pm and 5pm-7pm

Additional content online - Go to

www.lavalleystar.com

Valley Travel

San Pedro Offers Mix of History and Culture

ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

After a week of commuting from home to school, I decided to abandon the Valley for the weekend in search for an atmosphere that did not include classrooms, books, notes or lectures and ended up in San Pedro.

More than just the Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro is a city alive with history, artistic renaissance and residents who treat you less like a tourist and more like one of their own.

The first thing I did was hop on the Waterfront Red Car Line. The red cars are a replica of the Big Red Cars of the Pacific Electric Railway System that ran from 1903 to 1930 through the Los Angeles region. The three vintage trolleys cover a mile and a half of San Pedro and connect the Cruise Center Station with other attractions, like Downtown and Ports O' Call Station for only $1 per person.

After my ride, I decided to go to 22nd St. Landing, after seeing a sign that offered whale-watching tours. Unfortunately, the weather cancelled any such plans. Armed with a map, I decided to get in my car and travel to the heart of the seaside community – Old Downtown. There, I discovered that San Pedro is home to the Warner Grand Theatre, the last of three Warner Brothers theaters that were built in the 1920s and 1930s, that still has its art deco design intact. After admiring it, I left the flashing marquee and turned to 7th Street.

The sidewalk is lined with antique stores, gift shops, pubs, restaurants and boutiques. Every Thursday of every month 7th St. turns into a corridor of art galleries, beginning at 6 p.m. and lasting until 3 a.m.

I could not help but notice how amicable people in the streets were to each other. To test my observations, I decided to buzz a gallery building. A lady dressed in black with blonde hair and glasses greeted me and informed me that the gallery was closed, but offered to let me go in. Her name was Arnie Carofano, and she is the wife of photographer Ray Carofano. She gave me a private tour of the studio and home. The studio's latest exhibition was Harold Plople's work. Plople is a former resident of Harbor View House, a mental institution, who found sanity through art.

After a day of walking, hunger kicked in and I headed to Papadakis Taverna. The Greek restaurant offers traditional Mediterranean food like mousaka and baklava and you can enjoy your food while yelling "Opa!" as plates break around you.

After four hours of walking in high-heel boots, my feet gave in as I realized that I would need more than a day to explore what the city has to offer. I then decided to head home, knowing I would visit again, but not before getting on the 47 freeway and crossing the Vincent Thomas Bridge, which glowed with blue lights that overlooked the port.

$1.00
PORT OF LOS ANGELES
WATERFRONT RED CAR
TICKET
Enjoy your trip on the Waterfront Red Car Line!
Transfer free to the Cabrillo Beach Trolley to Cabrillo Beach and the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.
Centennial
AUG
JUL

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR

RIDING THE RED CAR - The Waterfront Red Car Train Line in San Pedro is a throw-back to a time in Los Angeles history when train travel was the norm. The Red Car costs just one dollar for unlimited rides along its mile and a half track.

Spring Break For Those on a Budget

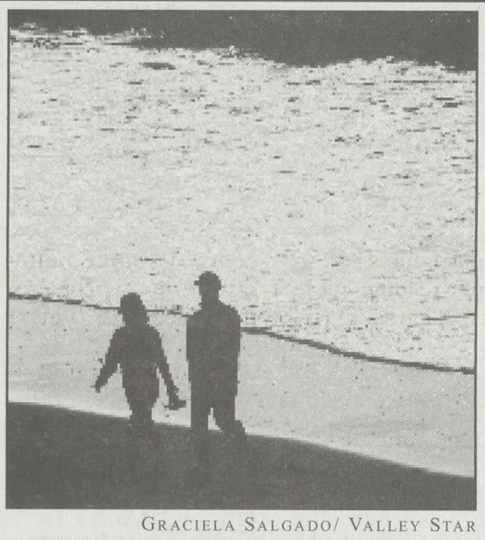
ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR

Students around the country are flocking to their favorite destinations to celebrate spring break during the coming weeks. Unfortunately, a student-sized budget does not always match the size of this week-long break known for its excess. However, there are some tools that the savvy student can use to make Spring Break '08 one to remember.

If you plan on heading out of the city, the costs of travel and accommodation can be a deal breaker. This is where Web sites such a priceline.com and lastminute.com can come in handy. They offer comparisons across airlines and cheap deals on flights and accommodation packages. Lastminute.com also offers deals on activities, such as theme parks; tours; shows and dining. Retailmenot.com is also useful, as it offers various coupons that can be applied when making bookings.

If you are taking your break around the sunny beaches of So Cal, a cheap alternative to driving is taking the train. Letting someone else do the driving is much more relaxing, and you will save money on gas and getting your car ready for a long trip. Amtrak has services up and down the California coast daily, and if you book at least three days in advance over their Web site, you can take advantage of discounts offered to AAA members, students and veterans. Amtrak also offers a 10-ride ticket that can cover groups of four or more at discounted price. However, this offer is not available over the Internet.

Lastly, when looking for a deal, remember that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you see an ad for a vacation with all the booze and babes you can handle for next to nothing, be wary. These people have no qualms about taking your cash. Keep wise about the scams out there, such as checking out companies through the Better Business Bureau and paying by credit card so you can dispute fishy charges and you'll be on your way to a fantastic spring break.



GRACIELA SALGADO/ VALLEY STAR

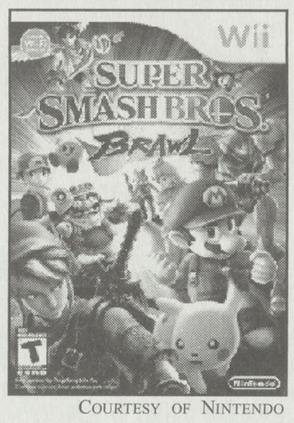
LUCKY BREAK- All those students who plan to enjoy spring break can only envy this couple who managed to find an uncrowded beach.

Let the Brawl Begin

JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

What was once a melee is now an all out brawl. "Super Smash Brothers Brawl," the much-anticipated third installment of the "Super Smash Brothers" series exploded onto shelves last week and flew out of retailers' hands faster than a Pokemon trainer can sling Pokeballs. The game features new characters, items, an elaborated single-player campaign and free online capabilities.

Masahiro Sakurai, the creative mind behind Brawl blessed solo smashers with tons more content than the game's predecessor, Melee. Subspace Emissary, the new single player campaign, took me, a veteran smasher, seven hours to complete. The journey included a slew of well-done cut scenes and a storyline that almost made sense.



COURTESY OF NINTENDO

A slew of new characters appeared on the scene, including Snake from "Metal Gear Solid," Sonic, Pit from "Kid Icarus" and R.O.B., the Robotic Operating Buddy.

Brawl features two modes of online play, Play with Friends and Play with Anyone. When choosing to play with Anyone, the game randomly pairs you with three other players and fixed rules. The Play with Friends mode enables players to view games created by those they've added as Friends through Brawl and customize rules.

Warning: Jargon approaches. For those of us who play competitively, Brawl is a curious step. The changing of the airdodge system removed wavedashing entirely, Lcanceling is gone, and combos are easily broken. Edgeguarding is nigh impossible and the metagame seems to lend itself to camping and spamming projectiles.

New advanced techniques such as b-sticking and auto-reverse aerial rushing have been discovered, discussed, and abused already. There is no consensus on whether or not Brawl will be as competitive as Melee, but I have high hopes and feel the more tactical metagame will evolve into something great.

Valley People

One Teacher's Journey Gives Students Insight

BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

At first glance, geography professor Gregory Schwartz looks like he should be on "Grey's Anatomy" instead of teaching his class about the changing seasons, but even with his dashing good looks and easy demeanor, it soon becomes clear that the earth is the star in his classroom.

Schwartz holds his geography 101 students in rapt attention as he speaks about the importance of organic farming and how everyone can make a difference for the planet. It is hard to ignore the fact that many of the females in the room seem smitten with the professor's charm and warm smile as much as his infectious joy of conservation.

The 36-year-old UC Berkley graduate began teaching English and Spanish to inner-city high school kids before moving to the world of health and nutrition, writing and speaking for the Contra Costa health department. He came to Valley in winter 2007 and joined the Geography Department; he also teaches at CSUN and West Los Angeles College.

"The campus is beautiful," said Schwartz about Valley College. "The trees almost give it an east coast feel. But more importantly of course, the student body has a curiosity and also an ambitiousness that I sometimes don't see elsewhere. In short, every student at Valley is going somewhere, and they are using the school as a necessary stepping-stone."

"I have so much to share that it's bursting out of me all the time - in books, lectures, and conversations – so teaching feels natural to me."

- Geography Professor, Greg Schwartz

The professor also played football for El Camino Community College and Berkeley before going pro in Europe with the Vienna Rangers. Fitness and health are a recurring theme in his life as he also managed a vegan café and trained as a Thai massage therapist; however, teaching just seemed to be in his blood.

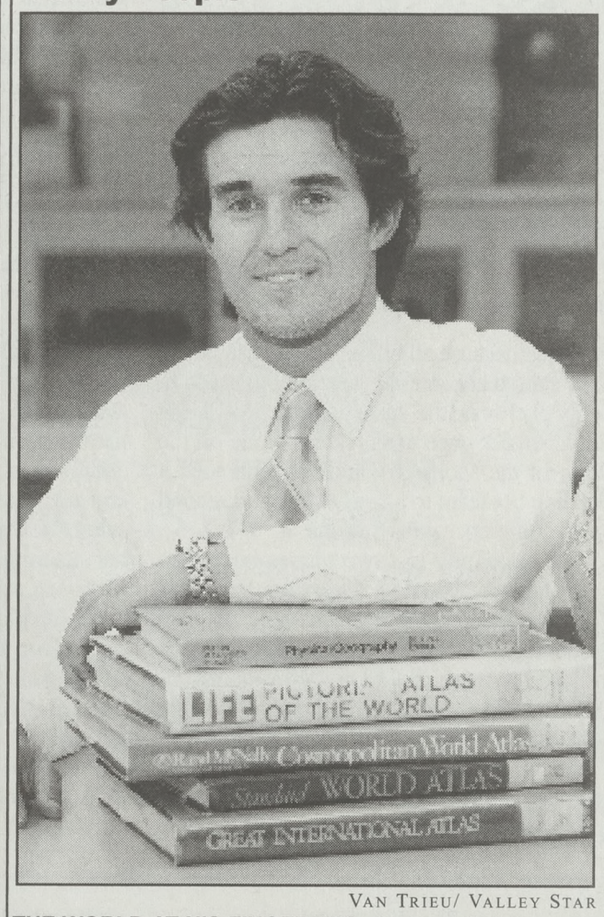
"My family is full of teachers," Schwartz said on his way to the classroom. "But also, I have so much to share that it's bursting out of me all the time - in books, lectures, and conversations – so teaching feels natural to me."

Traveling around the globe helped inspire the teacher as he spent time in countries such as Africa and Thailand. In his lectures, he often brings his real-world experiences to the classroom, showing slides of his many adventures in third-world conditions.

Schwartz wrote his own textbook, "The Way of the World" that he uses to illustrate just how drastically our planet is changing and how we affect it on a daily basis. It is also used to show his students he is connected to the material.

When his class prepares to leave, Schwartz reminds them about an extra credit project he is spearheading in April. He wants to take as many students as possible to work on an organic farm for a day to learn how food is grown, and also to save the farmers much-needed funds.

"I'd like to dominate Hollywood and then become governor,"with tongue firmly in cheek, Schwartz boasted when saked about his future. "Just like my fellow Austrian counterpart, but if that doesn't come to fruition, I'd like my book 'Three Ways to Save the Planet in your Spare Time' to be a best seller."



VAN TRIEU/ VALLEY STAR

THE WORLD AT HIS FINGERTIPS - Valley College geography professor Greg Schwartz brings a wealth of world- travel experience to his classrooms at the school.

Valley Measures up at CSUN Invitational Meet

BY SCOTT MITCHELL
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Monarch track team shared the track with Division I, II and III teams from all over the county at the CSUN Invitational Track Meet. UCLA, USC, Stanford, Pepperdine, Cornell, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State San Bernardino, Moorpark, Chaffey, Cal State Bakersfield, UC Irvine, Loyola Marymount, Citrus, and more participated in the all day meet.

The team also competed with Mother Nature as weather conditions changed constantly. Sunshine, clouds, high winds, varying temperatures, gusts of wind, sprinkles and rain clouds came and went throughout the day.

Since the meet was an invitational, there was no official team scoring. This was an open competition. The Monarchs had the opportunity to compete on an individual basis, as well as in team events.

"This meet provides a big stage and good exposure to collegiate track and field at the next level," said Yannick Allain, the women's cross-country/ track & field head coach. "It gives our athletes an opportunity to see what the standards are at the next level in terms of performance and conduct. University coaches get to see some of our athletes in action, so it is a good recruiting opportunity for them."

Mekka Edwards-White bounced back from a disappointing performance last week in her signature event (800 meters) to run her fastest time ever. She placed 2nd overall in the 800 out of 24 competitors, with a blistering time of 2:16. Mekka earned the No. 1 ranking in the state for community colleges.

SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

RUNNING HARD-Valley College sprinter Sylvia Alboniga turned in a time of 21:34 in the Women's 100 Meter high-hurdles at the Cal State University Northridge Invitational Track Meet March 15.

Andre Davis continued to improve in his events (100 meters and 200 meters). He won his heat in the 100 meters with a time of 11:26. He was poised to break his personal best in the 200, but the cold weather chilled his muscles on the home stretch and he held back to avoid serious injury.

Martha Alvarado ran 5:28 in the women's 1,500-meter race. Phillip Garrett tossed the shot put a distance of 9:35 meters (30 feet). Fredy Santizo ran the 200-meter race in 53:09. Miguel Galvez ran the 800-meter race in 2.09. Elva Lopez ran the 5,000 meter in 20:18, and the 3,000 meter in 12:30. Sylvia Alboniga ran the 100-meter hurdles in 21:34. She took a hard spill at the start of the 400-meter hurdles, but went on to finish the race and was not seriously injured.

"Vanessa Murray continues making progress in her events of the high jump (4'9"), Long Jump (15'11"), Javelin (87'03")," boasted Allain.

He also explained how the meet benefited Valley runners.

"These meets can show Valley athletes how they measure up to Div I competition and puts their expectations and preconceptions in proper perspective . . .," Allain said. "Reacting to this type of experience is a valuable learning experience. Those athletes who were diligent in their preparation to this meet did well. Those who weren't did not fair so well. With this level of competition, one cannot take anything for granted. Focus and preparation are paramount in these competitions."

SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

OUT AT SECOND-Valley College shortstop J.P. Hollywood tries to break up Mario Morales's double play attempt, during the Monarch's twelve-inning, 7 to 6, win over Pierce College at Pike Field March 13.

Baseball Game Ends in Close Monarch Victory

BY DENNIS ALAMINA
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Monarchs defeated Pierce College 7-6 in a game that went 12 innings, after losing on March 11 to Pierce 18-3.

Monarchs starting pitcher AJ Homayun gave up 3 runs in the top of the second inning, leaving them down 3-0 early in the game. In the fourth inning, third baseman Dominic Necuechea hit a single sending Justin Kaid home from second. Center fielder Angel Nunez stole third base, but the Monarchs did not capitalize on the scoring opportunity and ended the inning trailing 3-2.

Homayun stopped Pierce from scoring for the next 5 innings. The Monarch bats were relatively silent until the fifth inning when they started to make good contact. Right fielder Brandon Ashford hit a solo home run for the Monarchs, tying the game at 3. "We knew this was going to be a dog fight," said head coach Dave Mallas. The pitching staff was solid; we just struggled to find the right chemistry and consistency."

Valley brought their middle pitcher Martin Sarabia in the 6th inning; he walked in a player from Pierce, who gave up a run to the Bulls.

At the bottom of the sixth inning, Pierce's pitcher Carter Whitman threw a passed ball, giving Kaid the opportunity to sprint home from third base, tying the score at 4.

With bases loaded and Pierce positioned to run away with the game, Kaid was brought in to pitch. His accuracy and pitch selection got the Monarchs out of trouble. Kaid stayed on the mound and shut the Bulls out through the 12th.

At the bottom of the ninth inning, center fielder Nunez, in a do or die situation for his team, sprinted from third base, scoring the Monarchs' fifth run while Necuechea, running from second, tied the game.

The winning run was scored when Pierce's left fielder dropped a fly ball. After defeating the Brahma Bulls, Valley has a 5-5 record in their division.

Ashford hit one home run and two singles, Kaid hit a single and a double. The Monarchs won 7-2 against Glendale on March 15 at Glendale College at 1:00 p.m., but lost 11-7 against East Los Angeles College.

Brackets Offer March Madness for Any Fan

BY JOSH SPENCE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Everyone loves March Madness, end of story. There is truly something to make every fan appreciate the shock and awe of this twenty-day long men's NCAA basketball tournament. Not exactly sure what that might be? Read on.

It doesn't take a degree in physics to realize upsets during March Madness are historic.

The Newbies- With 65 teams participating in the tournament every year, the field of teams offers a mix of the college basketball elite (UCLA, Duke, North Carolina), perennial powerhouses (Kansas, Michigan State), and second tier teams vying for legitimacy (Gonzaga, Memphis, Tennessee).

In addition to the appeal of big name schools, a key in keeping the tournament fresh and interesting every year is the inclusion of teams that most people never heard of and the inevitable Cinderella story of the underdog that scraps all the way through the preliminary tournament to land one of the last spots. As shocking as it may seem, schools like Portland State, Texas-Arlington, and Maryland-Baltimore County aren't exactly household programs synonymous with Final Four dominance.

Even American University, which has been playing Division I basketball for 41 years, has only now broken through the glass into the field of 65. Each of them will make their first appearances in the tourney this year, determined to make a name, and that's what puts the madness in every March.

The Upsets- It doesn't take a degree in physics to realize upsets during March Madness are historic. In an ESPN article detailing the 10 biggest upsets in the history of sports, four of them were upsets in the NCAA Tournament. When they happen in March, they happen big. For casual fans, it becomes a factoid to show your sports mettle. For diehards, you remember where you were when you were watching your favorite team come up big or sadly, fall drastically short.

The replay of North Carolina State coach Jim Valvano running up and down the basketball court looking for someone to hug after winning the 1983 tournament is lodged somewhere between the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" and Vince Lombardi as a symbol of sports Americana.

For more on March Madness, visit www.lavalleystar.com

VALLEY PEOPLE

Star Softball Pitcher in Comfort Zone at Valley

BY SHANNON MCHUGH
STAFF WRITER

At first glance, Sasha Snyder looks like many young women who walk the Valley College campus. Her long, dark hair (usually pulled up in some sort of ponytail) and dark eyes that blend with her tan complexion are not features that set her apart. What differentiates her from fellow Monarchs is her ability to stand on a mound of dirt and, with one circular, windmill-like movement of her right arm, snap a ball directly into a catcher's glove better than anyone else on campus.

Being the only pitcher for the Valley softball team, Snyder has a lot of responsibility weighing on her and more than a handful of people who rely on her on almost a daily basis. Even with that intense pressure, she is still able to retain a look of comfort and ease as she walks toward the North Gym clad in her emerald green Valley sweatshirt, and a pair of shiny, black warm-up sweatpants and casual running shoes.

"I practically live here," she said with a laugh. "I wouldn't mind coming here in my pajamas. I'm here so much that they would be much more comfortable, and it wouldn't be embarrassing to me."

Comfort is a necessary feeling for this 19-year-old athlete; with the rigorous practice and game schedule that she and her fellow teammates are subjected to during the season, Snyder hardly has a moment to relax, let alone be at home. As she casually took a seat on the brick planter across from her home away from home: the Valley softball field, the warm sun peaked through the cumulous clouds and trees overhead, the breeze blew lightly in synch with the quiet of the campus.

With her hectic schedule and drive for excellence, wearing pajamas to class could be easily overlooked because all of her accomplishments. Snyder started her softball career in 9th grade as the only pitcher on the Varsity team at Poly High School. Snyder once again stands alone on the mound for the Monarchs, and has embraced it by leading her team to a rank of 9-4 and second place in conference wins thus far.

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR
Valley College pitcher Sasha Snyder

"We have only lost two games in conference so far," she beamed. "We work hard, and we're going to be really good this year. We had a lot of big hitters last year, but this year we have better defense and our record is better."

Her passion for the game pours out of her as she speaks about her team; her eyes, which are usually covered by her trademark goggles during game day, were uncovered and gleaming. Using the terms "we" and "us" to talk about the season, it is clear that Snyder feels a strong connection with her team, not just as an individual. She especially expresses her respect and support of her only catcher on the team, Jessie Velasquez.

"I think the most important connection for me to have is between me and my catcher, and we work really well together," she explained. "She is equally important in keeping the game focused, because she's pretty much the other side of me."

Velasquez agreed with this, sharing similar sentiments about her relationship with Snyder. "The best thing about Sasha is her confidence," she said. She can face anybody and overcome anything thrown at her."

When asked what she thought her greatest strength on the field would be, Snyder noted that focus is a main objective in getting the win. "I'm not very vocal on the field. I kind of just go out and do my job and stay focused," she explained. "If I stay focused we will win." She nodded with that same confidence that Velasquez and the rest of her teammates said they see on a daily basis.

Snyder, who hit her first home run against Bakersfield on March 13, continues to work hard and prosper this season as both a pitcher and a hitter. She does it all while studying liberal arts and planning to transfer to a 4-year school next year to study sports medicine. With her determination and focus, it seems like the Monarch softball team can only go up from here, and playoffs could be within arm's reach.

Valley's Lady Monarchs have their next home game at 2:30pm on Thursday, March 20 against Citrus, who, Snyder said, is going to be their toughest competition this year. Snyder and her teammates will be there to give it their all and show Citrus what the Monarchs are made of.

THE NEXT TWO

Baseball	Softball	Swimming & Diving	Track & Field	Baseball
18-20 Channel Coast Tourney TBA	3/20 vs Citrus 2:30 p.m.	3/21 @ Santa Monica 2:30 p.m.	3/22 @ Cerritos 9 a.m.	3/27 vs Bakersfield 2:30 p.m.
3/25 vs Glendale 2:30 p.m.	3/25 vs San Francisco @ El Camino 3	3/29 Citrus Invitational TBA	3/25-26 So. Cal. Champ. 9 a.m.	3/29 @ Bakersfield 1 p.m.

'Gas'

continued from page 1

Bus fares increased to $5 from $3 last year for a day pass. Monthly passes have also risen to $62 from $52 in 2007. However, students can apply for a reduced bus fares at their school, any Metro customer center or online.

There are many reasons why gasoline prices increase. Analysts attribute oil's increasing prices to the declining dollar. Crude prices are calculated in dollars, and as the dollar declines, producers have to make up for the revenue loss and are forced to raise prices.

Hopes for the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, an organization whose members hold 40 percent of the world's oil supply, to increase their supply during a meeting of oil ministers in early March were fruitless, as they declined to increase production.

However, the Energy Information Administration, the organization that provides official energy statistics from the U.S. Government, points out that U.S. consumption of oil will reduce as demand decreases due to the prices.

Guillermo Gonzalez, a Valley student, tries to save gas money by "[scoping] around for gas stations."

For those students who spend more gas looking for the cheapest fuel, they can visit GasBuddy.com or LosAngelesPrices.com, where you type in your location and the sites research to find the lowest prices near your area.

'Spitzer'

continued from page 1

Spitzer has remained silent about the allegations, offering only a few words of regret when accouncing his resignation.

"Over the course of my public life, I have insisted — I believe correctly — that people regardless of their position or power take responsibility for their conduct," he said. "I can and will ask no less of myself. For this reason, I am resigning from the office of governor."

Valley history instructor Abe Hoffman said, "What you have here is someone who's built his reputation on integrity. But what you also have is the arrogance of power. [It's] the old quote 'absolute power corrupts abolutely.' And I think he became a victim of his own arrogance ... so he walked into this with his eyes wide open."

The hysteria continued with the identification of Ashley Alexandra Dupre as "Kristen," prompting several media outlets to publish photos and information from her personal MySpace page. Visits to the page immediately jumped into the hundreds of thousands and photos of her were widely circulated by the media. Her lawyer objected to the rampant use of the photos, but stopped short of taking legal action.

In the midst of all the controversy, Paterson's governorship is seen by many as a chance to move forward positively from Spitzer's administration.

"The first thing [Paterson] can, and I think he will do, is end the era of accusation and contempt and ridicule," said Democratic Assemblyman Richard Brodsky. "I think everyone will be better off because of it."

'Job Fair'

continued from page 1

be between 20-35 years old."

While many of the students were impressed by the volume of colleges and businesses that turned out, there were some who didn't really get the answers they needed.

"They are kind of full of it," said administration of justice major Patrick Pineda. "They don't give enough information and they don't seem to care. But the L.A.P.D. is being very helpful."

The level of students were plainly sided towards the career booths, leaving schools like UCLA, Cal State Northridge and USC twiddling their thumbs but getting some wonderful tans sitting in the sun.

The theme parks touted their summer jobs to dress as Sponge Bob for Universal Studios or to play lifeguard to kids at Six Flags' Hurricane Harbor.

"I think Universal is a great place for students to get a summer job," boasted Universal recruiter Joe Selph. " We have 1200 jobs available in a wide variety of fields. This is a great place for a first-time job because we give you all the training you need."

Workshops were also held in Campus Center 104 and included job shadowing and writing and interviewing skills. Dr. Synthia Saulton, the director of the career/transfer center led a talk on careers in the 21st century to interested students and faculty.

The combination of great weather and eager students translated into what appeared to be an interesting mix of education and hopes for the future.

For more information about transferring and job opportunities just go to the administration building room 126 or checkout the "Virtual Valley Career Center" at lavc.edu to get a jump start on tomorrow.

'Profiling'

continued from page 1

ther action.

Wieder said she had a brief conversation with Captain Webb Monday morning after receiving the letter and plans to talk to Lynch.

"My concern is this. The sheriffs have their own rules and regulations and I appreciate what they have and I appreciate their department guidelines," Wieder said. "I need to make decisions about the campus in terms of what's best for the students here, and that's the way we're going to proceed. I haven't spoken to Deputy Lynch yet, so... it's a little bit early to get comments from me on what our next action will be here on this campus."

Eddie was adamant in his desire to see Lynch removed from his post at Valley.

"The least the school should do is make sure Tom Lynch never steps foot back into this school again," Eddie said. "It will be a double slap in my face if the administration allows [him] to continue to work at Valley. They should make sure he does not."

Deputy Lynch has been out on unspecified medical leave since February and Wieder said she was told he would return sometime in April. In the meantime, Wieder said she is exploring what options to take with a possible administrative investigation.

"I have no jurisdiction over what they investigate, how they investigate or the conclusions that they come to, that's them," Wieder said of the sheriffs. "My responsibility as the college president is now to make a decision about what the college is going to do."

'Study'

continued from page 1

programs. The pictures show the beauty of the places that students will be calling their home for at least two weeks.

"One of the best opportunities is to be able to practice what you learn the minute you walk out of the classroom," wrote previous Paris study abroad student Diana Wright. "Whether shopping at the Monoprix for groceries, taking the Metro to any of the hundreds of sights to see in Paris, to finding new restaurants to try the local cuisine, each day is a new adventure."

The one-month trip to Paris costs $3,300, while the two-week trip to Rome costs $2,125; both include room, tuition, guided tours and an International Student Identity card. The Paris trip includes a Metro pass and access to a resource center with ACCENT Paris staff on site. Not included in these costs are roundtrip airfare, optional cultural tours, meals or personal traveling expenses.

"At this point I have 11 enrolled, and four or five that say they are definitely going and are just getting their funds together for the April 22 deadline," said French instructor Dominique Merrill, a native French speaker and current program director of the study abroad to Paris. "In the past three times that I lead the group, I had between 22 and 26 enrolled," which means there is still a significant amount of spaces left for this years trip.

To apply, students should send an application and a $250 deposit for the program in which they are applying before Apr. 4. There will be a final informational meeting for the trip to Paris on Saturday, April 5 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in Foreign Language 100. Students will see a presentation on the program that will provide answers to any questions students may have.

Although the last informational meeting for the Rome trip has passed, students can contact Visco at viscomm@lavc.edu. Merrill can be reached at merrildl@lavc.edu.

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Commissioner of Fine Arts

For more details please visit us in CC102

ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON
APRIL 15TH-16TH
In Monarch Square 9:00am-2:00pm; 4:00pm-7:00pm

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT UNION (ASU) is an excellent way to become involved at Los Angeles Valley College. As a member of the student government, you will receive the opportunity to Represent student's needs, Develop leadership skills, and Impact decisions that affect the student body. Don't miss out on this great opportunity.

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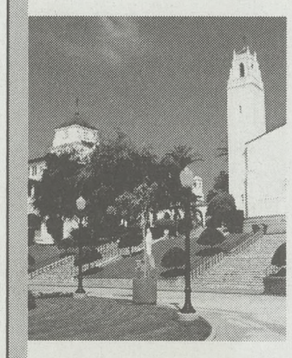

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GALLERY

THE COST OF WAR - Protestors carry flag-draped coffins down the streets of Hollywood as a reminder of the high cost of war.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN PHILLIPS / VALLEY STAR

Five Years Is Long Enough

JOHN PHILLIPS
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

To observe the fifth anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, local activists organized a protest on Saturday, seeking to end the occupation. A few thousand people gathered in Hollywood to march in support of the withdrawl of U.S. forces, while a handful came to voice their opposing viewpoints. Similar events were held across the country and around the world to mark this significant anniversary.

Despite the fact that the number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq is approaching 4,000 and there is no definitive plan to reduce the occupational forces, many in attendance had a hopeful outlook toward the upcoming presidential elections. The number of banners promoting Barack Obama were outnumbered only by those that criticized George W. Bush.

MARCH TO THE BEAT - Protestors used drums of all shapes and sizes to energize the crowd. This quartet is from the local Bus Riders Union.

CULTURAL WARRIORS - Members of the Los Angeles Korean Resource Center arrived in traditional costumes with a message of peace.

VOICE OF DISSENT - Ruben Isreal of Los Angeles and a half dozen other counter-protesters made their presence and opinions known to the marchers. LAPD officers kept close watch to prevent disagreements from escalating.

SPEAKING OUT - Dave Kelly, a Navy veteran from Redondo Beach, shares his thoughts on the situation in Iraq with students from the New York Film Academy.